

Soil and Groundwater Cleaning at Former Schlage Site

Current work to clean up contamination in the groundwater at the former Schlage Lock site along Bayshore Boulevard will continue to late September, according to a work notice issued in August by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

Previous investigations for the property now located at 2401 and 2555 Bayshore Blvd. have determined the presence of metals in soil, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in soil and groundwater beneath the site as a result of past manufacturing activities.

DTSC approved a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) on Nov. 16, 2009 to clean up the soil and groundwater at the site.

Work to clean up the contamination in the groundwater began in January of this year when edible vegetable oil (EVO) with sodium lactate was injected into the groundwater. This food grade substance causes the VOCs in groundwater to break down into a non-harmful substance.



Edible vegetable oil is being used to clean up the former Schlage Lock site.

A new series of injections began on August 16 and should be completed during September. All work is being conducted between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Work activities include:

*Injections of EVO into groundwater. About 10 to 20 injections are being done each day with a

total of about 310 injections to be completed during a one month period.

*The EVO is being injected using direct-push borings. This method doesn't create dust and won't disturb soil because the steel injection rods are pushed into the ground.

Return of Leland Avenue Street Fair

by Nick Wolff

The popular Leland Avenue Street Fair is back this year on Sunday, September 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. featuring Pete Escovedo, the world-famous Latin-Jazz percussionist, and his 6-piece orchestra live on stage.

The Leland Avenue Street Fair is a free community festival in Visitacion Valley located at Leland Avenue at Bayshore Boulevard that welcomes people of all ages and neighborhoods.

An exciting variety of home-grown talent, including artists, crafters, chefs, entertainers, service providers and other vendors, will line the streets of downtown Visitacion Valley to celebrate the beautiful new public art and streetscape, recently completed after a year-long, \$4.1 million construction period.

The Fair is located in the south-

east part of San Francisco near the Brisbane/Daly City border and is accessible by buses, the T-Third train, and Caltrain.

The fairgrounds will offer live entertainment on the main stage, delicious eats, a children's area featuring arts and crafts projects and an enclosed bicycle course courtesy of SF Urban Riders. Pete Escovedo will be on stage at 12 noon.

The Street Fair is presented by Visitacion Valley Business Opportunities and Outreach to Merchants (VVBOOM), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) program, with support from many sponsors.

For more information contact: Nick Wolff, program director of VVBOOM: sf.vvboom@gmail.com, 415-225-5969, or write P.O. Box 34003, San Francisco, CA 94134, www.sfvvboom.blogspot.com/

Soil Excavation and PCS Construction Continuing at PG&E Martin Center

Soil excavation work and the construction of a personal communications service (PCS) facility commenced August 8 at the PG&E Martin Service Center located adjacent to Geneva Avenue and Schwerin Street in Daly City.

The Site was a former manufactured gas plant site that operated from 1905 to 1916. Waste from the former plant, comprised of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) was dispersed across portions of the Site.

PAHs are chemical compounds formed when organic material such as oil, fuel, or even food are not completely burned.

In 2002, DTSC approved a deed restriction that requires DTSC's permission prior to any soil disturbance on the site.

Recent work was conducted on the Brisbane Annex portion of the PG&E property near the intersection of Linda Vista and Main Street.

The work is divided into two major phases: soil removal activities and construction of a Personal Communications Service (PCS) facility.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is supervising the soil removal activities while T-Mobile is supervising the PCS construction activities.

Soil removal activities include: *Soil excavation and digging of trenches;

*Construction of a 17- by 17-foot slab on grade foundation and concrete slab;

*Approximately 80 cubic yards of soil excavated;

*All disturbed areas will be capped with an asphalt chip seal;

*All excavated soils will be returned to the excavation area or placed in a nearby low spot in the cap, following installation of cabling for the PCS;

*Dust control activities will occur during all excavation and soil removal activities to minimize the impact of construction for surrounding properties.

PCS facility construction activities include:

*Establishment of a 17- by 17-foot lease area within an overhead electrical transmission corridor.

*Surrounding the proposed ground lease area within a 6-foot wooden fence enclosure;

*Replacing an existing 8-foot transmission tower "top hat" extension with a new 12-foot "top hat" extension;

*Attaching up to 8 antennas to the proposed 12-foot extension;

*Relocating the existing antennas to the new extension beneath the proposed T-Mobile antennas; connecting the proposed ground lease area to electrical and telephone vaults; and electrical transmission tower via a series of horizontal and vertical connecting cabling.

S.F. Waste Diversion Rate Sets Record

Mayor Gavin Newsom announced August 27 that San Francisco achieved 77 percent landfill diversion rates, surpassing the goal of 75 percent landfill diversion by 2010 and setting national recycling rate records, the highest of any city in the United States.

New statistics show that the City is up from 72 percent landfill diversion from the year before.

The figures compiled by the City's Environment Department for 2008 show that San Francisco, diverted just over 1.6 million tons of material through recycling, composting and re-use. Of this

only 560,000 tons went to landfill, the lowest disposal on record.

Data collected since the Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance went into effect last October indicates that the trend of increased diversion, coupled with dramatically reduced landfill, puts San Francisco at the forefront of environmental stewardship.

Leading by example, composting has increased by 45 percent, and the City is now sending nearly 600 tons of food scraps, soiled paper, and yard trimmings to Recology's compost facilities each day, up from 400 tons a year ago.

Local Candidate Brings Passion to District 10 Election



District 10 Candidate Marlene Tran

Having gained a lot of experience as a grassroots advocate in the Southeast Sector for more than 20 years, Visitacion Valley resident Marlene Tran in April accepted the overwhelming support of many neighbors and residents to file for her candidacy as Supervisor in District 10.

A passionate leader with years of commitment and excellent track records, Marlene has served as an elected member of the 12th Democratic County Central Committee and two terms as Mayoral appointment to the Immigrant Rights Commission.

Marlene recently outlined for the Grapevine some vital points of her campaign:

*Public Safety: "Currently, I am the only candidate who is a community advisory member of both the Ingleside and Bayview Police precincts to better bridge communications between our diverse residents and SFPD. To bring more peace and harmony to our communities, I will continue my collaboration with other groups to build on our recent successes. The installation in May of two community drop-in centers (at 66 Raymond Ave. and 2574 San Bruno Ave.) are helpful for our residents to better communicate with law enforcement. On August 2nd, the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs started the twelve Community Ambassadors to patrol, and especially helpful to escort seniors, along the #9 and Third Street corridors."

*Jobs and Job Training: "In the next ten years, District 10 will undergo the biggest land use transforma-

tion in San Francisco when mega-developers will build tens of thousands of housing units in our communities. While we need economic development to lift us out of our high unemployment rates, I am committed to making sure our own residents will benefit directly from those jobs, and, to a smart and an environmentally sustainable economic growth. Three years ago, to address the disparity of work opportunities, I had already initiated surveys to lobby for jobs and job training in anticipation of the building boom. Additionally, I will provide incentives and resources for small businesses to invest in our communities."

*Housing Needs: "I will work with the developers to set aside a fair percentage of affordable housing for our low-income families and provide resources for home ownership opportunities."

*Neighborhood Schools and Expansion of CCSF Programs: "As a retired teacher from both City College of San Francisco (CCSF) and SFUSD of over 30 years, I am sensitive of the many needs of our children, youth and their families. I will fight for quality programs in our neighborhood schools."

*Muni: "Many of our residents rely on public transportation in their every day lives. I will work with other board of supervisors to vote against fare raises and service cuts."

When Marlene first moved to Visitacion Valley more than 20 years ago, many neighbors asked her to organize monthly safety meetings to address the rampant criminal activities they encountered.

"I was so concerned about neighborhood safety that I offered, for free, the use of part of my building as the first One-Stop on Leland Avenue to then Captain Bruce and his officers to readily patrol our streets," she said.

Besides frequent publicity received from other media for her extensive grassroots work, in 1995 her picture got front page exposure for the Grapevine for her spearheading the efforts to expand the ESL/Citizenship classes at the Visitacion Valley Community Center (VVCC).

"Recently, during one of my radio campaign interviews, I was so grate-

ful that these former students called in to support me and they attributed their American citizenship to our classes. Gradually, that program became so successful that some of the classes at VVCC became overcrowded. So, I also offered my building to house two CCSF classes. I happened to recognize the Tai Chi skills of one of my students, Master HE, Xiao-Dong, so I helped her contact the old Beacon Center where she became very successful and taught hundreds of her students for the next eight years."

While serving as a Board of Director at VVCC, some seniors frequently communicated with Marlene in Cantonese, Mandarin, Taishanese or Vietnamese about their many needs, while others asked for some recreational programs. She conveyed their requests to set up the small room for the devoted Mah Jongg players.

From 1996 to 1998, Marlene helped VVCC apply for \$180,000 Enterprise Community funding to expand the CCSF program that included childcare for the parents who were taking our morning or evening classes.

"Since Visitacion Valley is my extended home for over 20 years, I also have devoted a lot of time on grassroots community work beside my full-time teaching at SFUSD and part-time teaching for CCSF at our community center.

"I feel very energized to work with many community leaders for the beautification of Leland Avenue, our nice Clubhouse, improved McLaren Park and for our upcoming modern Leland Library. I will work with our community leaders to provide more services and resources for our residents and to transform our communities into a vibrant District 10.

"I ask for your support to be the next Supervisor in District 10 because, as the press called me the 'Modern Day Woman Warrior' for my years of grassroots work in the Southeast Sector of San Francisco, I will continue to work hard on behalf of our residents to deal with the bureaucracy at City Hall for the best interests of our residents."

New Public Art on Leland Avenue



Those out and about on the morning of Friday, August 27 saw the installation of the public art piece Streetlife on Leland Avenue near Bayshore Boulevard.

Grapevine Mailbox

About the Zoner Jam

We spoke at Jerry Day about an upcoming event at the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater on Saturday, September 25, starting at 12 noon.

This annual music event was started four years ago by Phil Lesh fans (aka "Zoners").

The original inspiration for the Zoner Jam is to create a place where friends (new and old) can get together, make music and spend time together. Only those that show up are welcome to attend.

This is free and a BYO event — no food, beverages, alcohol will be sold. It is sponsored by donations from various Zoners and friends in the community at large.

The bands play a variety of music, including metal, funk, blues, rock, folk, world music and jazz. What they have in common is that they engage in free improvisation — in the spirit of Jerry Garcia. Most of the musicians are S.F. Bay Area based, some coming from Sacramento, Marin, and one band from New York.

We all want to support music in the park and keep the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater venue a place where people in the community can come together for an afternoon of free music and continue to spread the message of peace through music.

This year, Bill Mylar is coordinating the event, volunteering his time to line up the musical acts and so forth. Everyone working to put on the event, including the musicians, donate their time and en-

ergy to make this a family affair.

Bands Performing are: Lost Ticket, Lisa and Van, Who Knows, Left Coasting, Dedicated Maniacs, and William Mylar and friends.

We invite Friend of McLaren Park to join the party and welcome all those who attend. Nancy Wagner, Friends of WCZJ 5th Annual West Coast Zoner Jam

Peru Street Playground

Thanks to all who came to our July 31st and Aug 21st design meetings with architect Leslie Golden. The weather, typical for a summer in San Francisco, didn't hamper us because we all stayed nice and cozy up on Peru Street helping the kids of the future with a new playground design!

These two foul weathered days proved the Peru Street Playground is weather-wise, very protected/sheltered from the harsh elements mother nature likes to throw us San Franciscans.

It was very comfortable and the BBQ was a great place to hang around if you got the munchies. Fifty attendees remembered to sign the roster and their were more kids there than I ever knew lived in our neighborhood.

Pretty good attendance for one of the last Saturdays of summer before school starts.

Come help celebrate the final design October 2 when Leslie shows us her final rendition of the playground we as a neighborhood choose for our kids and the kids of tomorrow. I think you will be pleasantly surprised. Chuck and Trile, Help McLaren Park

Visitation Valley: San Francisco's First-Named Neighborhood

by Russel Morine

Originally inhabited by the Ohlone, then "discovered" and named by Spaniards lost in a July 1777 fog, our southeastern-most San Francisco neighborhood has a little-known, but quite intriguing history.

Join Cynthia Cox, Edie Epps, Russel Morine and Betty Parshall of the Visitation Valley History Project on a photographic journey through the "Valley of the Windmill's" past and present: as a Mexican land grant deeded to an Anglo, settled by Gold Rush-era Europeans, and today with the city's largest Asian-Pacific population outside of Chinatown.

From Schlage Lock and Southern Pacific, Julia Morgan and Joseph Eichler — to Leese, Pioche and Schwerin, Florence Friedman and "Pop" Blanken — to the nine seniors who share their stories in the 2004 Circle of Elders video to be shown following the presentation — all have played equally important roles in creating the Visitation Valley community of today and tomorrow.

The presentation will be held Tuesday, September 14 at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco - Kanbar Hall at 3200 California St. at Presidio Avenue. A reception begins at 7 p.m. with the pre-

Free Garden for the Environment Class

Fall can be a great time to start a new compost pile as you tidy up the leftovers of the summer's bounty.

Join Garden for the Environment on Saturday, September 11 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at 7th Avenue at Lawton Street for this free class and discover how to turn those leftovers, either from the garden or the kitchen, into "black gold."

This fun, hands-on workshop teaches methods for both backyard and worm composting for all seeking to enrich the bounty of their garden and reduce their ecological footprint. To pre-register or for more information please visit www.gardenfortheenvironment.org.

Candidate Forum for District 10 Supervisor

The League of Women Voters of San Francisco, in collaboration with the Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses, the Potrero Boosters, the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association, and UCSF will hold a candidate forum for candidates for District 10 Supervisor starting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 22 at Genentech Auditorium, 600 16th St. at UCSF Mission Bay.

Please see: <http://i.imgur.com/ctPuE.jpg> for a map.

Saturdays Are Special At Randall Museum

Drop in Saturdays between 1 and 4 p.m. to create all kinds of art and science projects. Cost is \$6 a child or \$10 for an adult and child together. Kids under 8 must be with a paying, participating adult. Members of the Randall Museum Friends and Arts Card holders receive a 2-for-1 discount. Sign up at the museum's front desk to participate; the last sign-ups are taken at 3:30 p.m.

*Sept. 4: Construct your own miniature train set from our abundant wood scrap supply.

*Sept. 11: Look at a snake, snake skin and snake skeleton, learn some amazing snake facts then sculpt a scaled snake sculpture.

*Sept. 18: Build an amazing airplane using ordinary objects.

*Sept. 25: Design and bead your own Leather medicine bag.

New Principal at VVES

Alene Wheaton is the new principal at Visitation Valley Elementary School, replacing the departed Vincent Chao who retired after 21 years of service at the school.

sensation starting at 7:30 p.m.

The program is free to current S.F. and History Society members. Admission is \$5 for non-members, which may be applied toward

membership in the SFMHS.

Parking is available on site for \$5. Entrance to the parking garage is on California Street, west of the main entrance.

McLaren Park News and Notes



Wooden post with the word "No" removed and then later restored.

Park Post Pranks

by Betty Parshall

As many of you know who read these notes, and hundreds of others who don't, there is a serious issue in the neighborhood about a proposal to install a disc golf course in McLaren Park. The proponents say the sport would bring many people to what they call an under-used park, and that the golfers would take responsibility for maintenance and clean-up of the area they use. They also say that the sport would not interfere with the more pedestrian uses that so many people enjoy.

Opponents say that the sport is detrimental to the environment by scarring trees and breaking foliage, would destroy wildlife habitat and cause erosion, and pose a danger to people walking the trails that would be crossed by the course. For a map of the proposed course and more information, visit www.savemclarenpark.org.

With the map in hand you can follow the paths where the proposed course would be built. Now comes the fun part. To protect the innocent or the guilty, depending on your point of view, identities are denoted with a letter.

X is an opponent to disc golf who installed neatly painted wooden posts that mark the tees and baskets of the game. The posts were bright orange, marked on one side with the tee number and on the other a stenciled message: NO DISC GOLF. Within a week or so, most of these posts disappeared, apparently taken away by Y. X replaced the wood stakes with wood stakes bolted to steel I-bars. Y (who must be a very strong and/or heavy person) managed to bend one of the steel bars to the ground. X straightened the steel and then strapped that post to a dead tree.

Y then traveled around the course and scraped the word NO from several of the posts. Enter Z, armed with an indelible black marker pen to neatly insert the word NO on the defaced posts. As this column is being written, we have observed that Y has taken stronger measures and covered the magic word with black paint on some posts. Z responded with heavy-duty NO stickers on a couple of these. And at least one post has been damaged, its top splintered into pieces. What will be X's and Z's response? Stay tuned, we'll give you an update in next month's column. Or better yet, walk the park to see the posts for yourself and enjoy the amenities this wonderful park offers.

Fond Goodbye to Valley Branch Librarian

by Russel Morine

Visitation Valley Branch Librarian Wen Chin Chen quietly left our neighborhood to take a post at the new Ingleside Branch on Ocean Avenue.

Wen first came to Visitation Valley nearly eight years ago, just as the community was first imagining our future expanded branch. Over the years she became a favorite among library patrons and an active member of the community.

Always willing to support a community gathering or event, Wen became a trusted friend with all she interacted. She was especially supportive of the merchants along Leland Avenue, being a quick advocate on their behalf and acting as an important bridge between languages and cultures.

Wen will be missed, but she is enthusiastic about her new opportunity. We all wish her well.



Librarian Wen Chin Chen

Acting Librarian Lise Braden will oversee branch operations until further notice. Lise is an experienced children's librarian and was instrumental in the opening of the new Ingleside Branch.

Visitation Valley welcomes Ms. Braden and will look forward to seeing Wen once again at the grand opening of our new branch early next year.

S.F. Dump Artist in Residence Exhibitions

The Artist in Residence Program at Recology San Francisco will host an exhibition and reception for current artists-in-residence Val Britton and Zachary Royer Scholz on Friday, Sept. 17 from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 18 from 1 to 5 p.m. at 501 Tunnel Ave.

This exhibition will be the culmination of four months of work by Britton and Scholz who have scavenged materials from the dump to make art and promote recycling and reuse.

An exhibition of paintings and drawings by student artist Tanner Griepentrog will be held concurrently. Work by all artists will be viewable by appointment the week of September 20th.



Editor: Len Appiano

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Pictures from the Past



Len Appiano at the Visitation Valley Grapevine office in August 1991.

by Betty Parshall

The Visitation Valley Community Center has kindly loaned a collection of historic documents, pictures and ephemera to the Visitation Valley History Project to sort, collate and catalog, and every so often we can share items from this collection in the Grapevine (see this month's VVHP column).

Last month our Grapevine editor wrote a column commemorating the 24th anniversary of our local paper's publication. While celebrating the paper's longevity he gave the most attention to some of the

many fine improvements in our community has seen since 1986.

This is to give some well-earned recognition to editor Len Appiano for seeing that the Grapevine gets to the publisher on time and is then distributed not only in the community but to various other organizations and government representatives.

Len has been doing this faithfully and as a volunteer for nearly a quarter of a century, and this picture from the VVCC collection testifies to his dedication. Way to go, Len! Many, many thanks.

...from the desk of the VVBOOM newsroom

by Nick Wolff

The Rebirth of Leland Avenue

Three years ago (August 23, 2007 to be exact), Mayor Gavin Newsom held a press conference in front of Joe Leland Coffee shop to announce 4.1 million dollars in Federal Transportation Grants had been secured for major streetscape reconstruction along Leland Avenue. He proclaimed the project would lift Leland Avenue from its relatively overlooked status city-wide and return to the bustling and vibrant commercial district it once was. Now, in September 2010 the project has come to fruition and as construction winds down with the painting of pedestrian crosswalks and public art installation, the renaissance of downtown Visitacion Valley is officially underway.

There is more to this rebirth than the structural improvements that signify beautification in downtown Visitacion Valley. First and foremost the revival begins with the small businesses that line Leland Avenue. For the past year, the commercial corridor has been packed with heavy construction equipment, noise and dust all of which added up to considerably fewer parking spaces and a less than ideal shopping experience for customers. It hasn't been easy and local small business owners should be commended for sticking it out with sales revenue taking a serious hit in every storefront from Bayshore Boulevard to Rutland Street. It is imperative local small businesses recapture shoppers who may have avoided the construction along Leland Avenue and make downtown Visitacion Valley a part of their daily shopping habits. Shopping local will be more enjoyable than ever for neighbors, as the entire pedestrian experience along Leland Avenue has been enhanced.

Over 60 new trees have been planted, curb corners at intersections have been built out and vastly beautified, vibrantly decorated street furniture has been installed and streetlights have been erected—improving pedestrian lighting. The environmental impact of this project is considerable as state of the art permeable brick-lined pavers along Leland Avenue will serve as a model for best practices in storm water management of urban business districts. You'll no doubt notice the colossal public art display—*Streetlife* created by the artist design team at REBAR, installed adjacent to the Shun Lee Market. The large-scale sculpture references Visitacion Valley's pastoral and agricultural past, composed of surplus parking meter heads, painted dark orange, attached to tall, arcing steel poles while marking the gateway entrance to downtown Visitacion Valley. The landmark will be accompanied by the installation of downtown Visitacion Valley way-finding signage along Bayshore Boulevard in both directions. The signs will direct both north and southbound drivers to Leland Avenue and includes the *Streetlife* image in its design. Funding for the signage manufacturing and installation was secured by VVBOOM who worked with REBAR to design signage that reinforces the new Leland Avenue landmark.

It's Time to Celebrate

One year ago, budget shortfalls meant a down-sized block party on Alpha Street instead of what would have been the 4th annual Leland Avenue Street Fair. To ensure this wouldn't be the case this year, VVBOOM embarked on an aggressive fundraising campaign that included a benefit show at the 7 Mile House (2800 Bayshore Blvd.) On Saturday, August 21st our exuberant neighbors to the south helped us raise some much needed funding by hosting '5 Bands and a BBQ' which showcased a eclectic mix of live music and jumbo sized plates of delicious BBQ. The fundraising started at 5 p.m. and didn't end



until last call around 2 a.m. Not only did organizers and attendees have a blast for a great cause, between the prize giveaways, auctions, and modest \$5 cover fee, nearly \$2,500 was raised to support the Leland Avenue Street Fair. We were thrilled to partner with 7 Mile House, a neighboring locally owned and operated San Francisco institution, bringing neighbors together for music, food and drink.

Now, after a one-year hiatus, the Leland Avenue Street Fair is ready to reassert itself as the neighborhood's largest, most celebrated family oriented event of the year. Sunday, September 19th, 2010 promises to be our greatest festival yet as we secured world famous Latin-Jazz percussionist Pete Escovedo and his 6-piece orchestra to headline our entertainment stage. A successful fundraising effort over the past several months with support from our community partners has enabled us to organize a neighborhood festival showcasing a variety of home-grown talent, including artists, crafters, chefs, entertainers, service providers and other vendors who will line the streets of downtown Visitacion Valley to celebrate the new streetscape and our place in San Francisco.

And who better to get the word out about this rebirth than Mayor Gavin Newsom himself who will be returning to Leland Avenue for a press conference on Friday, September 17th at 12 noon. The Mayor will be joined by senior Leland Avenue Streetscape Project staff and local dignitaries in publically marking the project's completion. They will also be promoting the Leland Avenue Street Fair, which will be taking place the following Sunday, September 19th. I hope you'll join us and help usher in a rebirth of Leland Avenue. I'd like to thank the generous sponsors who are making the street fair possible: Universal Paragon Corporation, Califormia Pacific Medical Center, State Farm, San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, Recology, Office of Workforce and Economic Development, Wells Fargo, Mercy Related, North East Medical Services, Office of Fiona Ma, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, See's Candy, San Francisco Sewing and Quilting Collaborative, The Examiner and Asian Week.

(Top to bottom) Mayor Newsom in 2007; Streetscape finishing touches; workers installing *Streetlife*; benefit show at 7 Mile House; and Latin-Jazz percussionist Pete Escovedo.

Visitacion Valley History Project

Burgie Belongs

by Betty Parshall

"Burgie Belongs" is the title of an essay found mixed in with documents and pictures from the 1920s Visitacion Valley Community Center's collection of historical material.

Whoever wrote it didn't bother to include his or her name, so if any of our readers happen to recognize it we'd be very grateful to hear from you.

"Over one hundred years ago a historian familiar with the scene in southeastern San Francisco said 'from 1833 to 1850 may be set down as the golden age. Not until then did the rancheros become general. The missions were breaking up, the Presidios were deserted, the population dispersed and the land could be had for the asking.

"It was true! The country was lovely, the climate delightful; the valleys were filled with horses and cattle; wants were few. There was meat for the pot and wine for the cup, and wild game in abundance.

"It seemed in those early years that Visitacion Valley might be the promised land for the big-name brewers of San Francisco, their stockholders and friends. Five streets bear the names of pioneer brewers, which include Spreckels, Mangels, Gundlach, Schiller and Wieland.

The first sub-division by the Visitacion Homestead Association in 1868 sold considerable property to these early pioneers. Among them were Frank A. Lux, Claus Mangels, Jacob Gundlach, Jacob Claassen, Frank Schnitzer, Frank Eckenroth, John Christ, Hotaling, Ulrich Remensberger, Herman Nehring, E. Schnutenhaus, John Oppel and Fritz Schweizer. At this late date it is difficult to understand the reasoning behind the purchase of Valley property by so many people.

"One family thought it was the circulation of a rumor that the southern Pacific contemplated building a tunnel through the Western Hills (Geneva) from Colma to enter San Francisco; others say the well-water in Visitacion was of excellent quality for brewers' use; and another reason, Ralston had made known the Spring Valley Water Co.'s plan to run an additional line into San Francisco through the Valley.

"In 1896 Frank Schnitzer, John Hasselwander and C. Haebler, opened the Mission Brewery on Desmond Street near Visitacion Avenue. It was a small brewery of the family type, common in Europe for hundreds of years. It was designed to supply little more than local needs. Its product was the popular Mission Steam Beer of the times.

"Frank Schnitzer made many friends along the San Bruno Toll Road and picked up most of the beer accounts. The little brewery operated for over eight years, then Schnitzer closed the business and moved his equipment to the Milwaukee Brewery of San Francisco, now Burgermeister, and associated himself with William Garms and Frederick Lurmann, two outstanding names in the brewing industry. The firm made a good product and prospered steadily until the San Francisco disaster in 1906 when it was wiped out.

"No time was lost in rebuilding the business. All of this historic background may be the reason that 'Burgie', or if you prefer, Burgermeister Beer, of the San Francisco Brewing Company, is the best selling beer in southeastern San Francisco, and that genuinely 'Burgie Belongs'. 'A Truly Fine pale Beer.'"

(In the 19th century "steam beer" was a nickname for local beers that were fermented with lager yeast, at ale yeast temperature, producing beers with ale-like character. It may also have been common practice to "top off" kegs of beer with beer that had not finished its first fermentation. The result was an in-keg fermentation that produced high levels of natural carbonation. With no refrigeration to control this fermentation a freshly tapped keg would produce copious amounts of foam (or "steam").

Events in September at Valley Branch Library

Following are events in September at the Visitacion Valley Branch Library, 45 Leland Ave. Ages from 11 to 11:30 a.m.
 *Sept. 28, Thursday: Game On! Get your game on at the library
 *Sept. 7, 14, 21 and 28, Tuesday: this summer! Battle your friends on the Wii from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Open and rhymes for children of all to teens and tweens.

VISITACION VALLEY DENTAL OFFICE

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Joe Leland around the neighborhood

***Be Ready to Vote:** Stay current and informed about the D10 Supervisor race. Visit: <http://d10canwatch.blogspot.com/> for one man's opinion and share yours with the world.

***Extra Special Walking Tour:** Saturday, September 18, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Our Historic Heritage" with Cynthia Cox. Meet on the overpass of Caltrain's Bayshore Station on Tunnel Avenue to begin a guided excursion through the neighborhood's sites and stories – art and Art Deco, a "castle" and a log cabin, greenways, churches and community centers, new housing developments and homes from earlier eras, an array of languages and cultures, and even an early film star (or two?).

***Got (Used) Books?:** The Leland Avenue Street Fair is back, promising to be bigger and better than ever! As in previous years, the Visitacion Valley History Project (authors of the best-selling Vis Valley history book of all time!) will be selling used books and related items to raise money for the continued collection and preservation of the history of our neighborhood. If you have books, records and CDs, videos and DVDs that you'd like to donate for a great cause, please drop them off at JOE Leland Coffee Shop at 28 Leland Avenue, Monday through Saturday before 2 p.m. If you need someone to pick them up, contact Russel (rmorine@aol.com) to make arrangements. Join us at the Leland Avenue Street Fair on Sunday, September 19, 2010. Buy a book (or a bag of books) to support Visitacion Valley! Prices start at 3 books for \$1, fill a bag for \$5.

***The Portola Garden Tour:** This year's garden tour on September 25 features 18 new gardens and four favorites from previous tours. The gardens represent a wide range of styles from California Living to English and Tuscan-inspired to easy-care succulent plantings. There are outdoor rooms, beautiful bay views and even a 19th century windmill in need of a historical restoration. Come see the gardens, take in the tranquil beauty, be surprised by the views and learn about your neighbors and gardens while helping students in CCSF's Environmental Horticulture and Floristry Department. Tickets are \$25 each or two for \$40 with all proceeds benefiting The Portola District Scholarship at City College of San Francisco. Cash or checks are accepted. Please make checks payable to: CCSF EIH/F Foundation. Tickets for The Portola Garden Tour are now on sale at the following local outlets: Fat Belí Deli, 2598 San Bruno Ave., 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday; Family Connections, 2565 San Bruno Ave., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday; and Flora Grubb Gardens, 1634 Jerrold Ave, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. For more information, contact Ruth Wallace (Portola Garden tour organizer) at rwallace@portolagardentour.com. 415-585-8399 home. 415-420-6185 cell. See www.portolagardentour.com

***Greetings from Leland Avenue!:** Soon you may notice postcards and posters displayed around the community promoting the Leland Avenue Street Fair. The colorful image was designed to mimic travel postcards of a by gone era. The concept was inspired by VVBOOM's mission to bring residents back to Leland Ave and to reconnect them with the merchants that serve the Visitacion Valley community. By playfully invoking "Downtown Visitacion Valley" as a destination, VVBOOM hopes to lure local 'travelers' back to one of Visitacion Valley greatest treasures, Leland Avenue. The postcards were designed by San Francisco expatriate CB Brown.

***Credit Union Closed:** With little notice and no fanfare the Northeast Community Federal Credit Union located at 29 Leland Ave closed its doors permanently on August 27, 2010. Few details were revealed in a letter sent to account holders. Northeast never had a torrent of customers, but many in the community became accustomed to their utility bill payment service and ATM. The closure comes at an ill-timed moment in Leland Avenue's history. Just as the street is looking its best, a new vacant storefront must now be filled. Given the fact that 29 Leland is a prime spot along the corridor and Northeast did substantially improve the space before they moved in, the next community serving business could open soon...we hope. The asking rent is \$1750 per month. For more info and showings, please call Laurie at (415) 819-2621.

***Quotes of the Month:** "Art for art's sake is a philosophy of the well-fed." -Frank Lloyd Wright "

"...sooner or later you're going to realize that there's a difference between knowing the path and walking the path." -Morpheus

Church of the Visitacion

Roman Catholic (1907)

Over a Century in Visitacion Valley

Daily Masses: (Mon-Fri except Wed) 8 a.m. and Wednesday only at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday Masses: 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Sunday Masses: 8 and 9:30 a.m. (11 a.m. Spanish) 12:30 and 4 p.m.

Our Lady of Visitacion School: Grades K-8 239-7840.
Religious Education: Grades K-8 (Saturday only) 595-1670

Come, Let us worship together!

**655 Sunnydale Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94134-2838
(415) 494-5517, Fax 494-5513**

**Rev. Rafael de Avila y Romero, Administrator Pro Tem
Rev. Thuan V. Hoang, Parochial Vicar**

Visitacion Valley Police Report

Police Cases

*On July 23 at 5 18 a.m. on the 100 block of Cora Street, officers responded to a person with a gun call and met with the victim. The victim stated that a female ex-friend had been at her house with her father and possibly her mother, yelling for the suspect's property to be returned to her. The officers had previously dealt with a dispute between the victim and the suspect regarding some items of property which both women claimed. The suspect and/or her mother or father shouted threats to shoot up the house and the victim's child, and then broke out several windows in the home. The suspects fled the scene and were not located. At 10 30 a.m. on the 1800 block of Geneva Avenue, an officer responded to a burglary call and found that 15-20 storage units within a multi-unit building had been forced open and property stolen.

*On July 24 at 7 19 p.m. on the 700 block of Delta Street, officers responded to a robbery call and began an investigation. The victim stated that he was robbed by an African American female and gave a very detailed description. The officers broadcast the suspect description for other officers and then began to search for the suspect themselves. The officers located a woman matching the description in a nearby gas station lot. The officers detained the woman and found that the cell phone she had in her hand at the time of the detention belonged to the victim. The woman was on probation for robbery. She was taken into custody and booked at Ingleside Station.

*On July 25 at 3 a.m., an officer responded to the area of Goettingen and Bacon streets regarding a call of an individual casing vehicles. The caller stated that he saw a subject going up and down the block looking inside vehicle windows. There had been several car burglaries in the area recently and the suspect's activity seemed suspicious to the reporter. When the officer arrived on scene, all was quiet and no one appeared to be out in the street. He systematically checked all the vehicles on the block. Finally, he found one with a broken window. As he inspected further, he found a subject laying across the front seats, attempting to duck his head. The subject was arrested and booked at Bayview Station. At 5 30 p.m. on the 1700 block of Sunnydale Avenue, a woman broke out the window of her neighbor's residence, then called her and told her what she had done. The suspect believes that her husband and the victim are having a relationship. A report was prepared by an officer. At 5 45 p.m. at Hahn Street and Sunnydale Avenue, a young boy was battered by two other young boys on the playground in the public housing complex. The two suspects approached the victim and made comments to him, to which he replied, "Same to you." The suspect both punched the victim numerous times until the victim was able to break away and make for home. The victim told his mother about the incident and she called for the police. The victim did not suffer any serious injuries. At 8 45 p.m. at Schwerin Street and Garmon Avenue, a man sitting on a Mini bus was injured when an unknown suspect shattered a window and a glass door panel on the bus. The suspect was outside of the bus and as the bus passed the suspect struck the bus with an unknown object. Neither the driver nor the injured passenger could provide a suspect description except that the suspect was an African American male adult.

*On July 26 at 12 51 a.m. on the 400 block of Argonaut Avenue officers were dispatched to the report of a robbery. The victim had just parked his car in a parking lot when he was approached by three suspects. One pointed a revolver at him and told him to close his eyes. The second suspect took the victim's property while the third suspect acted as a lookout. The three suspects then fled the area on foot. The first suspect was described as an African-American male (5'9", 130 lbs., aged 20-21) wearing a light brown baseball cap and a black jacket. The second suspect was an African-American male (5'9", 130 lbs.) wearing a baseball cap with a light brown jacket and light brown pants. The third suspect was an African-American male (5'9", 130 lbs.) with no clothing description. At 12 24 p.m. on the 500 block of Raymond Avenue, an officer responded to the report of a theft from a vehicle. The victim said that she came out to her parked vehicle to find that someone had take three of the car's wheels and some items from inside the car. At 3 53 p.m. officers responded to the area of Palega Playground at 500 Felton Street regarding a person with a gun. They located a group of individuals who all matched the clothing description given. As soon as the officers approached, one of the subjects broke from the group and began to run. As he ran, he held on to his waistband which is a tell tale sign that there may be a weapon concealed in the waistline. The officers were able to detain all of the subjects after a short foot chase. Sure enough, "the initial runner" had a loaded handgun in his waistband. He was arrested and booked At 7 23 p.m. on the 100 on the block of Cora Street, officers were dispatched to the report of threats being made. The victim said that she had been receiving threats from her ex-girlfriend over a cell phone which had been lost. The cell phone was the reason for their break-up. The suspect had since been sending messages with a threatening tone via text and internet.

*On July 27 at 6 41 a.m. at Wide Avenue and Girard Street, officers were dispatched to a reported purse snatch. The victim had been walking down the street when a car pulled up next to her. One of the passengers then got out and ran up to her from behind, grabbing her purse. The suspect ran back to the vehicle, which then drove away. The suspects could only be described as African-American males in their thirties, who were short with thin builds. At 11 15 a.m. on the unit block of Heritage Avenue, officers were on patrol when they were flagged down by the victim of vandalism. She said that she had been upstairs in her room the night before when she heard banging at her door but did not check to see who it was. When she left the house the next day, the victim saw that the door's frame had been damaged and was no longer operating properly. At

5 35 p.m. on the 200 block of Rey Street, officers were on patrol when they were flagged down regarding an assault. The victim had been working at a child and family center when she left to go home. She was then confronted by a group of men who were yelling and swearing at her because of the neighborhood in which she lives. The victim tried to walk away without further contact with the men, but one of them slapped her twice in the face.

*On July 28 at 2 47 p.m. at Hahn Street and Sunnydale Avenue, officers observed a man resembling a purse snatch suspect and approached him. The man identified himself to the officers and told them that he was on probation. The officers ran a record check which confirmed his probation status, but also revealed that he had a warrant for his arrest. The man was taken into custody and booked at Ingleside Station. At 7 52 p.m. on the 100 block of Blythdale Avenue, officers responded to the public housing complex regarding a shots fired call. A teenage boy was seen in the area and ran from the officers when they attempted to approach him. He was captured and no weapon was located. The juvenile was cited and released to his mother. At 11 24 p.m. on the unit block of Blythdale Avenue, officers were dispatched to a possible burglary. The victim said that she was inside her home when she heard the sound of breaking glass. She went to the window to find that someone had thrown an object at it. The victim believed the suspect was a man who her mother had had problems with in the past.

*On July 29 at 10 29 a.m. on the 400 block of Wide Avenue, an officer responded to the report of a theft. The victim, a dog walker, had arrived at one of her clients' homes. She had left the keys in the front door. As she was in the house, she heard the jingle of keys. She came outside and saw that the keys were gone. She then saw a blue Dodge Intrepid driving away. Witnesses described the occupants of the vehicle as three African-American teenage males wearing black hoodies. At 9 26 p.m. on the 100 block of Blythdale Avenue, officers were dispatched to the report of a broken window. The victim said that she was at home when she heard the sound of glass breaking at the rear of her building. She then discovered that one of her windows had been broken by someone.

*On July 30 at 10 30 p.m. on the 100 block of Blythdale Avenue, a woman reported that her public housing unit had been burglarized. The resident reported to officers that she left her home secured and while out received a phone call from an unknown neighbor stating that her house had been burglarized. The victim hurried home to find that the kitchen window was shattered and the unit was ransacked. She did not find that anything was missing.

*On July 31 at 7 30 a.m. on the 3300 block of San Bruno Avenue, officers responded to an auto boost call. The victim found his parked, locked and unattended vehicle had been damaged. The right rear window had been smashed, but the vehicle interior appeared untouched. At 3 56 p.m. on the 100 block of Hahn Street, a victim reported that the suspect, who is subject to a stay away order, was seen in a van parked in front of the victims' residence in violation of the order. Officers responded searched the area for the suspect to no avail.

*On Aug. 1 at 4 44 p.m. on the unit block of Towerside Avenue, officers observed a subject wanted for an aggravated assault incident. The officers contacted the subject and took him into custody without incident. The subject was found to be in possession of numerous counterfeit bills. The suspect was booked at Ingleside Station.

*On Aug. 2 at 9 40 a.m. at San Bruno and Harkness avenues, an officer prepared an incident report regarding a purse snatch. The victim told the officer that she was walking on San Bruno when an African American male, 30-40 years old, 6'0", 175 lbs., with short hair and wearing a black and green jacket, grabbed her purse and ran away. The suspect jumped a chain link fence and the victim lost sight of him. At 9 45 a.m. on the unit block of Fratesca Court, a woman reported that her vehicle, parked over night outside of her home, was broken into. The woman found the front passenger side window was smashed and two GPS units stolen. At 2 30 p.m. on the 400 block of Sunrise Way, officers responded to a vandalism call. The victim stated that he believed that a child who resides in the neighborhood was responsible for damaging his vehicle by breaking a window.

*On Aug. 3 at 12 57 a.m. on the 200 block of Leland Avenue, officers responded to a possible burglary called in by an anonymous person. The officers located the described suspects near the location and detained them. Other officers checked the residence and found that no entry had been made. A computer records check of the suspects was conducted and one of the suspects had a warrant for his arrest for a previous burglary. The suspect was taken into custody and booked at Ingleside Station. At 1 30 p.m. on the 200 block of Hahn Street, officers were dispatched to the report of a broken window. The victim said that she was watching television when she heard a group of kids laughing outside her window. She then heard the sound of glass breaking. Her bedroom window had been broken.

*On Aug. 4 at 8 30 a.m. on the 300 block of Harkness Avenue, a woman reported that an unknown person threw feces on the windshield of her vehicle while it was parked and unattended. At 9 a.m. on the 1700 block of Felton Street, a father reported to officers that his adult daughter had stolen and pawned numerous items of property belonging to him over the last few months. The father stated that his daughter had also taken money from his bank using his ATM card without his permission. The daughter was not located. At 12 noon at Delta Street and Raymond Avenue, a GPS unit and car stereo was reported stolen from a vehicle. The suspect broke the front passenger window of the vehicle and stole the property. The vehicle had been left parked and secured by the owner on the previous evening. At 1 59 p.m. at Blythdale Avenue and Santos Street, officers were patrolling the public housing complex as they are assigned to that area. The officers stopped a driver who was operating his vehicle on the roadway with the radio audible from down the street. The driver was somewhat uncooperative with the investiga-

tion, but signed the citation and left the area. A short while later the same vehicle with the same driver pulled up behind the officers in a marked patrol car and honked excessively with no emergency. The officers conducted another traffic stop and spoke with the driver. The driver was extremely agitated and shouting at the officers. His actions drew a crowd of onlookers who encroached on the officers' investigation and had to be asked to step back. The officers again cited and released the driver of the vehicle. At 3 p.m. on the 100 block of Santos Street, officers responded to a public housing unit and met with the resident. The resident stated that he left his home secured and returned to find the front door unlocked and the bathroom window forced open. The victim found that a television, new shoes, and groceries were stolen from the house. At 4 14 p.m. on the 1800 block of Geneva Avenue, an officer responded to a burglary from a storage locker. The victim told the officer that he found his storage locker area in his apartment complex had been entered and computer and stereo equipment had been stolen.

*On Aug. 5 at 10 55 a.m. on the 200 block of Leland Avenue, an officer was on patrol when he saw a vehicle being repaired by two men in the street in violation of the law. The officer spoke with the men and discovered that one of them had an outstanding warrant. The man was arrested.

*On Aug. 6 at 4 30 p.m. on the 100 block of Teddy Avenue, a family returned home and found that the front security gate to the residence was forced open, the interior garage door also forced open and the lower level bedroom door forced open. They found that the residence was ransacked and jewelry stolen. At 5 55 p.m. on the unit block of Sparta Street, officers responded to a burglary call. The victim believed the suspect may still be in the home. The officers searched the home for the suspect to no avail. The victim found the rear sliding door was forced open and his taxi cab, a Toyota Prius, was stolen, as well as two televisions and digital cameras. At 8 20 p.m. at Geneva Avenue and Santos Street, a woman reported to officers that she was robbed of a package of diapers while riding the bus. The suspect, an 18-24 year old woman, confronted the victim and yelled at her. The suspect grabbed the package of diapers from the victim and ran toward the public housing complex nearby.

*On Aug. 7 at 2 56 p.m. on the 100 block of Brookdale Avenue, officers responded to a call of a man with a gun. The officers spoke with the victims who told them that their neighbor had banged on their door, made threats against them, and then returned to his own home. The suspect then returned and banged on the door again, this time with, what the victims thought was a shotgun. The suspect left again and returned to his own home. The officers located the suspect, who showed them that he had struck the neighbors door with a pool cue after a dispute. The suspect was arrested for the criminal threats he made and the vandalism to the door. He was booked at Ingleside Station.

*On Aug. 8 at 8 19 p.m. on the unit block of Everson Street, a woman heard a commotion and looked outside. She saw a man smashing her car repeatedly with a large wooden stick. She confronted the man who dropped the stick and then laid down in the street in a fetal position. The man stated that he needed her help. Fearing for her safety, the woman did not offer the man any assistance and retreated into her home to call for the police. The man again began to hit her vehicle with the stick. The victim ran back outside and the suspect dropped the stick and walked away. An officer arrived first and broadcast the suspects' description. Officers located the suspect and detained him. Officers took the victim to view the suspect and she positively identified him. The suspect was taken into custody. He was later booked at Ingleside Station. At 8 20 p.m. at Bayshore Boulevard and Arleta Avenue, a Mini driver noticed a white teenage boy committing a graffiti offense on the back of the bus. The driver saw a police car behind him and flagged down officers. The officers took the suspect into custody. The suspect was found to have graffiti tools in his possession. The suspect was later cited and released to his father.

*On Aug. 9 at 11 57 a.m. on the 1200 block of Sunnydale Avenue, officers responded to the report of vandalism. The victim said that he came out to his parked car to find that all four of its tires had been slashed. At 8 p.m. on the 500 block of Carter Street, officers were dispatched to the report of a burglary. The victim said that she arrived home to find her room in disarray. Missing were two jewelry boxes and a laptop. It appeared that the suspect entered through an open window, which the victim kept unlocked and partially open.

*On Aug. 10 at 5 37 p.m. on the 2200 block of Geneva Avenue, officers responded to a person with a gun call. They located the suspect inside of a convenience store. The suspect was searched and a small caliber semi-automatic handgun was found in her jacket pocket. The firearm was loaded. The officers found that the suspect was a convicted felon and is therefore prohibited from possessing any firearm. The suspect was booked at Ingleside Station.

*On Aug. 11 at 2 30 a.m. on the 1800 block of Sunnydale Avenue, officers responded to a robbery call. The victim stated that he was talking on his cellular phone while sitting on the steps in front of a residence. The victim noticed an African American male, 18-19 years old, 5'11", 160 lbs., with hair in short twists approaching his direction from a nearby parking lot. The victim did not think anything of it until the suspect reached his location and suddenly drew a handgun and pointed at the victim's face. The suspect demanded the victim's cell phone and the victim complied. The suspect ran from the scene and was not located. At 9 20 a.m. on the 2000 block of Sunnydale Avenue, officers responded to a call of a man with a gun. The officers were directed to search a heavily wooded area in McLaren Park. As officers searching, another officer noticed movement in the bushes near the other officers' location. Officers located the suspect, and with guns drawn, took him into custody. The suspect was found to be in possession of a replica handgun. The gun had the appearance of a real semi-automatic handgun. The suspect was positively identified by the victim and transported to Ingleside Station.

Police Cases

*On Aug. 12 at 1:45 p.m., Bayview officers responded to San Bruno Avenue and Woodsey Street on a report of an armed robbery that had just occurred. The victim had given Headquarters a description of the suspects and their vehicle. The cops saturated the area and it was not long before officers spotted the suspect's car and stopped it on the 500 block of Brussels Street. The victim identified all three of the passengers as having been involved in the robbery. The victim and his friend had just left a store on the 2900 block of Bayshore and had got into their car. Two of the suspects approached and asked the victim if he had "any weed (marijuana) for sale." When the victim said "no," one of the suspects pulled out a gun, pointed it at the victim, and proceeded to reach into his car and remove items from his pockets. The suspects got the victim's cell phone and ring before fleeing on foot. The victims saw the two suspects get into a waiting car which took off. The victims followed the suspect vehicle at a safe distance in their own car while notifying the SFPD. The officers made the arrest without incident and located the stolen phone and ring. Behind a false panel in the center console was found a 9 mm Glock with an extended magazine. All the suspects were arrested and booked at Bayview Station. At 7:45 p.m. on the unit block of Garrison Avenue, officers responded to the report of a theft. The victim said that her niece had been staying with her for several weeks. When her niece left, she noticed that several items were missing from the house. The victim said that she spoke to the suspect over the phone, and she confirmed that she took the items but refused to return them.

*On Aug. 13 at 12:50 a.m. on the 300 block of Wilde Avenue, a witness heard a car alarm and went out to investigate. He saw a teenage African American male running from a Honda with a broken window. The witness called for the police and officers responded. The vehicle owner's son was located and a report was made. At 8 a.m. on the 100 block of Campbell Avenue, light fixtures were stolen from a home under construction. The burglar entered the residence by forcing a window that was accessible due to construction scaffolding. At 5:54 p.m. on the 200 block of Argonaut Avenue, officers were dispatched to a person with a gun call. Numerous other officers assisted. The officers detained two subjects and later detained three more within a nearby residence. A search for the weapons was conducted to no avail. At 8:35 p.m. at Velasco Avenue and Sawyer Street, officers conducted a traffic stop after a driver violated two California Vehicle Codes. The driver and the two passengers in the vehicle were found to be on probation and one of the passengers had a warrant for his arrest. The driver was discovered to be driving with a suspended license. A search of the vehicle revealed marijuana and ecstasy pills. All three suspects were taken to Ingleside Station where they were all booked.

*On Aug. 14 at 12:50 a.m. on the unit block of Santos Street, three vehicles were damaged when a shooting occurred. A dark-colored vehicle was seen driving at a high rate of speed on Santos Street to Blythdale Avenue towards a group of African American teenage boys, all in black hooded sweatshirts. The sound of shots rang out and the group scattered. Officers responded to the scene with numerous other officers and found the parked vehicles damaged, but no injured victims. At 4:13 a.m. at Brookdale Avenue and Santos Street, a young woman was taken to SFGH with a gunshot wound to her shoulder. The victim stated that she was shot while a passenger in her boyfriend's car as they drove past the corner of Brookdale and Santos. The victim stated that she saw a group of people standing on the corner. She heard two shots and then felt pain in her shoulder. The woman's boyfriend left her at the hospital and refused to further cooperate with the investigation. At 8 a.m. on the 100 block of Campbell Avenue, a woman reported to officers that someone had poured a thick oily substance to the front door and sidewalk area of her home. The woman believed that a former tenant was likely responsible. At 10 a.m. at Campbell Avenue and Delta Street, an officer was approached at Ingleside Station by a woman who stated that someone had sprayed paint on her vehicle while it was parked and unattended.

*On Aug. 15 at 7:49 p.m. on the 400 block of Sawyer Street, a carjacking victim saw his vehicle parked and occupied. Fearing for his safety, he left the area and called for the police. Officers responded and located two suspects, matching the given description. The officers detained the men who both were on parole. One of the suspects had run into a home on the block but returned to the street where he was detained. Due to the subjects' parole status, a search of the house was conducted and a loaded silver handgun was found as well as a realistic replica handgun. Paperwork belonging to the carjacked vehicle was located within the home as well as paperwork with the suspects' names. The suspects were taken into custody and transported to Ingleside Station where they were later booked.

*On Aug. 16 at 1:26 a.m. at Sunnydale Avenue and Santos Street, a man riding a motorcycle without a helmet was observed running several stop signs by officers. The officers attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver fled from the officers. The vehicle was later located parked and unattended. The driver was not located. The motorcycle was towed. At 3:30 p.m., plainclothes officers were doing some auto break-in intervention in the area of Holyoke and Bacon streets. Their attention was caught by a pair of subjects acting quite suspiciously on the street. One subject was looking into the window of a car while the other stood at the building line looking around. The officers watched as both suspects approached a parked vehicle empty-handed. When they got through with it and began to walk away, one was carrying a shoulder bag and the other a black case. The officers notified their surveillance counterparts who were just down the block and had these officers track the suspects. The "boosters" were stopped and the vehicle's owner of the vehicle was located. The owner

checked his car and found that a power sander, a GPS system, and some tools had been stolen.

Both suspects were arrested and booked at Bayview Station. At 6:55 p.m. on the 200 block of Hahn Street, officers responded to a "shots fired" call. The officers located spent casings and a damaged vehicle. A witness stated that a gray Ford Tempo was seen speeding away from the area at the time of the shooting. A Ford Explorer was also damaged, but no injuries were reported.

*On Aug. 17 at 4:18 p.m. at Leland Avenue and Alpha Street, an officer responded to a robbery call. The victim told the officer that she had been robbed of her cellular phone by a known person who had slapped her face and then tried to sell the phone to a local wireless merchant. The victim stated that she had attempted to retrieve the phone from the suspect, but that she was unable to locate him. The officer believed that he possibly had the suspect in custody for public intoxication. The officer had found the suspect, a local inebriate, and had another unit take the suspect to Ingleside Station to sober up. The officer also spoke with the wireless merchant who stated that the suspect had attempted to sell him a phone that matched the description of the victim's phone. The officer contacted the transporting unit and had the officers search the suspect for the stolen property. The officers located the victim's phone in the suspect's pocket. The suspect was booked for the robbery, a probation violation and a warrant. At 10:46 p.m. at Bayshore Boulevard and Leland Avenue, a traffic stop for an equipment violation led officers to contact the driver of the vehicle. The driver admitted to having marijuana inside of the vehicle in a "Blunt." The officers found the suspect was on probation and had a search condition. The officers searched the suspect and the vehicle. The officers found two baggies full of additional marijuana inside of the vehicle. The officers took the suspect into custody and later booked him at Ingleside Station. At 2 p.m. on the 2100 block of Bayshore Boulevard, officers responded to a burglary call. They met with the victim who told them that he returned home to find that his residence and his neighbor's home in the same building had been entered and burglarized.

*On Aug. 19 at 3:33 p.m. on the 200 block of Blythdale Avenue, officers were dispatched to the report of vandalism of a residence. The victim said that she arrived home and noticed a small hole in her kitchen window. The hole appeared to

have been caused by a BB gun.

*On Aug. 20 at 9:48 p.m. on the 900 block of Brussels Street, officers responded to a fight call. The officers found that a fight began when a neighbor's guest blocked the driveway to the victim's home. The victim argued with the guest and the neighbor who physically attacked the victim. The victim retreated into his home. Moments later the victim and his family heard the neighbor kicking their door. The suspect entered the victim's home, with the suspect's brother and two other unknown men and attacked the victim, causing injuries. The suspect, a 15-year-old boy, was arrested and later booked at the Juvenile Justice Center. At 11:30 p.m. at Sunnydale Avenue and Rutland Street while working in plain clothes in an unmarked police vehicle, an officer and a police sergeant observed a vehicle being driven recklessly and at a high rate of speed. The officers were eventually able to catch up with the vehicle and attempted to stop it with lights and siren. The driver sped off and the officers did not chase the car. A short while later, the vehicle was located unoccupied. It was towed for investigation.

*On Aug. 21 at 12:15 a.m. on the unit block of Rey Street, officers responded to a burglary call. The victims stated that a large amount of money had been stolen from the residence. The officers found that the front security gate and front door of the residence had been pried open. At 3:39 p.m. on the unit block of Blythdale Avenue, an officer attempted to interview a battery victim who was pepper sprayed and then punched. The adult female victim was uncooperative, only saying that she went out of her house after hearing there was a fight. She saw two young females having a physical fight and one of them pepper sprayed into the crowd. The victim was affected by the spray, and was then punched by a known male who was also in the crowd. The group scattered when the officers arrived. At 4:19 p.m. on the 100 block of Loehr Street, officers responded to a call of a stolen auto in the area. Upon their arrival they located the vehicle occupied by two juvenile males. The driver was taken into custody and later booked at the Juvenile Justice Center. The passenger was released to his mother. At 5 p.m. at Sunnydale Avenue and Peabody Street, a man and his friend were attacked by another male when they had an argument regarding a pawned wristwatch. The suspect struck one victim on the forearm with a metal pipe and the other

victim was struck on the head with the same pipe. One victim required medical treatment.

*On Aug. 22 at 1:36 a.m. on the 100 block of Brookdale Avenue, a woman reported to officers that someone threw something at a lower level window causing it to break. She believed that the suspect is a man she had an argument with previously. At 4:47 p.m. on the 3500 block of San Bruno Avenue, a 65-year-old woman was robbed of her purse by a 20-year-old African American male wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and black pants, who was 5'7" to 5'10". The suspect approached the woman as she stood waiting for a ride and asked her the time. He then grabbed her purse and she attempted to retain her property. The suspect pulled the victim to the ground and got away with her purse. The victim's purse and most of the contents were later found by several area residents, but the small amount of currency she had was gone. A suspect who had been detained and identified was later determined to have not been in the area at the time of the robbery. At 5 p.m. on the unit block of Tucker Avenue, a woman reported via 311 that her parked and unattended vehicle was broken into and her GPS unit was stolen from the glove box.

Police Summaries

*July 26 12:24 p.m. Arleta Ave. and Bayshore Blvd. suspended driver.
*July 27 5:39 p.m. Argonaut and Burr Aves., unlicensed driver.
*July 28 2 a.m. Unit block of Alpha St. stolen auto.
*July 28 2:30 a.m. Visitacion Ave. and Hahn St. traffic collision, hit and run.
*July 29 5:21 p.m. Raymond Ave. and Elliot St. traffic collision.
*July 29 5:26 p.m., 300 block of Raymond Ave., recovered auto.
*July 31 11:03 a.m. Talbert/Sunnydale Ave. recovered vehicle.
*July 31 4:30 p.m., 100 block of Silliman St. stolen auto.
*Aug. 1 1:45 p.m. Visitacion Ave. and Mansell St., suspended driver.
*Aug. 2 9:30 a.m., Rey St. and Visitacion Ave., suspended driver.
*Aug. 2 2:45 p.m., Visitacion Ave. and Hahn St., suspended driver.
*Aug. 3 2:11 a.m., Brookdale Ave. and Santos St., traffic collision.
*Aug. 3 2:11 a.m. Brookdale Ave. and Santos St., stolen/recovered auto.
*Aug. 3 9:15 a.m., Cora St. and Visitacion Ave., suspended driver.
*Aug. 3 12:10 a.m., Sunnydale Ave. and Sawyer St., sus-

pending driver.
*Aug. 3 1:30 p.m. 200 block of Talbert St. stolen auto.
*Aug. 4 6:43 a.m. 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave. traffic collision, hit and run.
*Aug. 5 6:09 a.m. 100 block of Arleta Ave., stolen auto.
*Aug. 7 6:45 p.m., Sunnydale Ave. and Sawyer St., unlicensed driver.
*Aug. 9 9:24 a.m. 100 block of Talbert St., recovered auto.
*Aug. 9 1:40 p.m., Unit block of Arleta Ave., recovered auto.
*Aug. 9 6:10 p.m., Unit block of Brookdale Ave. stolen auto.
*Aug. 9 6:59 p.m., Delta St. and Raymond Ave. suspended license.
*Aug. 9 11:55 p.m. 2200 block of Bayshore Blvd. suspended license.
*Aug. 10 1:29 p.m., Schwenn St. and Garrison Ave. traffic collision, hit and run.
*Aug. 11 11:05 p.m. Visitacion Ave. and Sawyer St. suspended driver.
*Aug. 12 12:04 a.m. 1200 block of Sunnydale Ave. stolen auto.
*Aug. 12 12:30 p.m. Arleta Ave. and Rutland St. suspended license.
*Aug. 13 7:08 p.m., 2200 block of Bayshore Blvd. traffic collision, hit and run.
*Aug. 14 2 a.m., Dwight and Gittingen Sts. traffic collision, hit and run.
*Aug. 14 7 a.m. Sunnydale Ave. and Bayshore Blvd. suspended driver.
*Aug. 14 9:30 a.m. 1400 block of Sunnydale Ave. stolen/recovered auto.
*Aug. 15 12:14 a.m. 1900 block of Sunnydale Ave. recovered auto.
*Aug. 15 10:15 p.m. 200 block of Blythdale Ave. stolen auto.
*Aug. 16 7:30 p.m., Santos St. and Velasco Ave. suspended driver.
*Aug. 16 7:44 p.m., 500 Sawyer St., recovered auto.
*Aug. 16 9:19 p.m., 1200 Sunnydale Ave., recovered auto.
*Aug. 16 11 p.m., 1200 block of Sunnydale Ave., recovered license plate.
*Aug. 18 8:15 a.m., 400 block of Campbell Ave., recovered auto.
*Aug. 19 7:25 a.m., Unit block of Camzai St., stolen auto.
*Aug. 19 8:43 a.m. 400 block of Sawyer St., stolen auto.
*Aug. 19 9:05 a.m. Visitacion Ave. and Cora St., suspended license.
*Aug. 19 12:03 a.m., 100 block of Talbert St., stolen auto.
*Aug. 20 7:45 a.m., Unit block of Desmond St., stolen auto.
*Aug. 20 9:55 p.m. 200 block of Rey St., stolen auto.
*Aug. 21 9:23 p.m. 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave. recovered auto.
*Aug. 22 12:26 a.m., Santos St. and Sunnydale Ave. suspended driver.
Captain Louis Cassinogo of Ingleside Station and Captain Greg Suhr of Bayview Station contributed to this report.

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World's Biggest Cities 10

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C I L K J H G F D N C O I M B A T O R E
P X Z Z V I K R A H K M N V F C X S Z X

Historic Proportions

1846
Match clues to answers.
1. Cracked on Feb. 26 while being rung for George Washington's birthday.
2. Planet first observed on Sept. 23.
3. Admitted as the 29th U.S. state on Dec. 28.
4. On June 15, a border was established on the 49th parallel between the United States and Canada.
5. American settlers in Sonoma proclaimed the California Republic on June 14..
6. His troops defeated a Mexican force north of the Rio Grande at Palo Alto on May 8.
7. Newly formed Texas state gov-

As a Matter of Fact

*A Tropical storm must reach wind speeds of 74 miles per hour before it can be considered a hurricane.
*In 1864, James Doughty, acting chief engineer of the U.S. Navy, created the periscope.
*The geoduck is a huge, edible clam found along the Pacific Coast. Its shell is about six inches long but the clam itself can weigh up to six pounds.
*Ohio's official beverage is tomato juice.
*Like a chameleon, the grouper fish can change its color to blend with its surroundings.
*The average flea is only 1/8 inch long but can jump up to 13 inches.
*The custom of hanging up mistletoe at Christmas dates back to the Druids, an ancient people of Britain.
*During dry seasons, the eland, the largest antelope in Africa, can live for weeks without water.
*The largest fish is the whale shark, which weighs more than twice as much as an African elephant.
*New York and Vermont lead the United States in maple syrup production but the Canadian province of Quebec produces more maple syrup than all 50 states put together.

Grapevine Five Years Ago

SEPTEMBER 2005
*Mayor Gavin Newsom on Aug. 11 unveiled Phase II of the City's Clean and Green Initiative: the Better Streets Program in Visitacion Valley at Hans Schiller Plaza on Leland Avenue.

Sump, the Grump

ernment was officially installed here on Feb. 19..
8. They declared war on Mexico on May 13..
9. Prince Osahito became Emperor Komei on Mar. 10..
10. He succeeded Pope Gregory XVI as the 255th pope on June 16.
11. On June 10, the California Republic declared independence from this country
12. Patented by Adolphe Sax on May 17.
A. Iowa
B. Austin
C. Mexico
D. Zachary Taylor
E. Neptune
F. Saxophone
G. Oregon Treaty
H. Pius IX
I. Bear Flag Revolt
J. Japan
K. United States
L. Liberty Bell

Answers: 1-L, 2-E, 3-A, 4-C, 5-I, 6-D, 7-B, 8-K, 9-J, 10-H, 11-C, 12-F.

SEZ WHO?

Match quotes to speakers.
1. "Anger dwells only in the bosom of fools."
2. "The best thing about teamwork is that you always have others on your side."
3. "You've achieved success in your field when you don't know whether what you're doing is work or play."
4. "Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you."
5. "Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret."
6. "Stop worrying about the potholes in the road and enjoy the journey."
7. "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."
8. "Attempt the impossible in order to improve your work."
9. "One must be poor to know the luxury of giving."
A. Warren Beatty
B. Margaret Carty
C. Ambrose Bierce
D. Albert Einstein
E. Babs Hoffman
F. George Eliot
G. Mother Teresa
H. Winston Churchill
I. Bette Davis

Answers: 1-D, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C, 5-C, 6-E, 7-H, 8-I, 9-F.

Book Review

Scandals and Scoundrels
There was no scandal like the girl who said a cable car accident turned her into a nymphomaniac. She was awarded \$50,000 for it. How about the judge who loved playing three-card monte on the public's money? When he was broke and needed money, he opened court. He summoned a deputy and told him to bring in a drunk with money. After fining the drunk, he pocketed the \$20 fine and went back to playing three-card monte.
Scandals and Scoundrels by Alton Pryor (Stagecoach Publishing, \$11.95) is filled with outlandish and sometimes humorous tales of the scam games of the west and the scandals that occurred along with them.

Cooking Corner

Sweet Potato Crème Brûlée
-Source: Muriel Woods
1 large sweet potato, unpeeled; ½ cup, plus 1 tablespoon, sugar; 1 teaspoon vanilla extract; 2 cups heavy cream; ½ vanilla bean, split; 4 egg yolks; Caramelized Topping; ½ cup white sugar; 1 tablespoon dark-brown sugar.
Preheat oven to 350o F. Bake sweet potatoes, with the skin on, for about 45 minutes, or until soft. Reduce oven to 325° F.
Cool potato slightly and peel. Place sweet potato in bowl of electric mixer. Add 1 tablespoon of sugar and the vanilla extract. Mix until smooth. Divide mixture evenly among six 4-ounce oven-proof ramekins—single-serving ceramic or glass dishes—spreading sweet potato in the bottoms. Layer should be about ¼ inch deep. Set aside.
Heat cream, remaining sugar and vanilla bean in a saucepan over medium-low heat until hot. Do not boil. Let cool slightly, then quickly whisk in egg yolks. Remove vanilla bean. Ladle cream mixture into each dish over sweet potato. Bake for 1 hour. Remove from oven and refrigerate until chilled through.
For the topping, stir together white and dark-brown sugars. Sprinkle over top of each chilled dessert, covering surface completely with a thin layer. Place under broiler for 30 seconds or until sugar has just melted. Watch closely to prevent the sugars from burning. Remove from oven and let cool until the sugar topping has hardened. Serves 6.

Grapevine on the Web

Read current and past stories from the Visitacion Valley Grapevine at www.visvalleygrapevine.com.

Visitacion Valley Business Directory

Valley free listings in the 415 area code
Call the Grapevine at (415) 467-9300

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DRAGON CITY AQUARIUM, 144 Leland Ave. 333-4598

ART

J.M. ASIAN ART, 130 Leland Ave. 828-3328

AUTOMOTIVE

BAYSHORE AUTO, 2260 Bayshore Blvd., 467-6130
BAYSHORE SERVICE 2506 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5239
BROTHERS AUTO BODY, 2520 Bayshore Blvd
CHARLIE S GARAGE, 2550 Bayshore Blvd. 239-7450
TIGER'S AUTO BODY, 23 Industrial Way, Bnsbane 94005, 467-6866
T.W. AUTOMOTIVE, 2500 Bayshore Blvd. 585-8281

BANK

BANK OF AMERICA, 6 Leland Ave. 622-4501

BAKERS

LITTLE QUIAPO BAKE SHOP, 169 Leland Ave., 239-2253

BARBERS

BARBERSHOP 3570 San Bruno Ave., 724-4398
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THE SHOP (JB), 160A Leland Ave., 239-6709

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NAILS BY JENNY, 50 Leland Ave., 333-6800
SHERRY BEAUTY SALON, 60 Leland Ave. 337-9381

BLIND CLEANING

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BOARDING HOUSE

ABLE S CASA, 850 Rutland St. 333-4664, fax 333-4693

BOOKKEEPERS

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CHURCHES

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IGLESIA EL ESPIRITU SANTO, 38 Leland Ave
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DAY CARE

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DENTIST

VISITACION VALLEY DENTAL OFFICE (Albert Kwan, DDS), 37 Leland Ave. 239-5500

DEVELOPERS

VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, 1099 Sunnydale Ave. 587-7895

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TATE ELECTRIC (Joel Tate), 467-4657

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IL FIORE FLOWERS, 2456 San Bruno Ave. 468-0145

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SILVESTRI GARDEN ORNAMENTS 2635 Bayshore Blvd. 239-5990

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LA LOMA PRODUCE #2 65 Leland Ave., 239-7520
LITTLE VILLAGE MARKET, 1450 Sunnydale Ave., 586-1815
M & M SHORTSTOP, 2145 Geneva Ave., 585-0878
PICCOLO PETE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 468-6800
7-11, 2200 Bayshore Blvd. 468-8646
SHUN LEE MARKET, 2400 Bayshore Blvd. 586-4851
TEDDY'S MARKET, 298 Teddy Ave

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HYPNOTHERAPY

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WILLIE L. BROWN, JR. TEEN CENTER, 1652 Sunnydale Ave. 584-6099
CHINESE FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN VISITACION VALLEY, 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 597-5779
GENEVA TERRACE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, 60 Burr Ave., 584-2700
GIRLS AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY, 2050 Sunnydale Ave., 333 Schwenn St., 584-4044
JOHN KING SENIOR COMMUNITY, 500 Raymond Ave., 239-6233
LELAND HOUSE, 141 Leland Ave., 405-2000
ROCK (Real Options for City Kids), 590 Leland Ave. 333-4001
SUNNYDALE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB, 1654 Sunnydale Ave., 584-5028
SUNNYDALE DEVELOPMENT COO OFFICE 1652 Sunnydale Ave., 841-1683
VISITACION VALLEY SENIOR CENTER, 66 Raymond Ave., 467-4499

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VISITACION VALLEY PHARMACY, 100 Leland Ave. 239-5811

PHOTOGRAPHER

WALTER CORBIN PHOTOGRAPHY (freelance), 435 Sawyer St. 587-9471, fax 337-8620

PLUMBING

MARK VOELKER PLUMBING, 99 Arleta Ave., 467-7401

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REAL ESTATE

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LaFLUE-WALTON & ASSOCIATES, 2428 Bayshore Blvd. 587-8683
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VISITACION VALLEY BILINGUAL EDUCATION, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES & TRAINING, 120 Leland Ave
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER (VVCC), 50 Raymond Ave., 467-6400
VVCC FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER, 161 Leland Ave. 586-6998, Fax 586-8027
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The 2Five meets or exceeds standards mandated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) as well as additional standards of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) for low-speed vehicles, or LSVs.
The car includes four-wheel hydraulic disc brakes for braking and vehicle control. The vehicle's dash includes a digital speedometer and odometer, cup holders, a locking glove box and an AC outlet for recharging mobile devices.
Eco-friendly features include a 48-volt electric powertrain that uses AC current, which lowers vehicle noise, eliminates hazardous fuel and oil and uses less energy. Regenerative braking recharges the batteries whenever the vehicle's brakes are applied. An on-board solid-state battery charger makes recharging as convenient as plugging into a household power outlet.
For more information, visit www.ezgo.com/2five.

NAPS

EarthTalk

Locally Produced Food

Dear EarthTalk: I know that local food has health and environmental benefits, but my local grocer only carries a few items. Is there a push for bigger supermarkets to carry locally produced food? -Maria Fine, Somerville, MA

By eating locally sourced foods, we strengthen the bond between local farmers and our communities, stay connected to the seasons in our part of the world, promote crop diversity, and minimize the energy intensive, greenhouse-gas-emitting transportation of food from one part of the world to another. Also, since local crops are usually harvested at their peak of freshness and typically delivered to stores within a day, customers can be sure they are getting the tastiest and most nutritious forms of the foods they like.

Luckily for consumers and the environment, local produce and other foods are now more widely available than they have been for decades. The first national grocery chain to prioritize local producers, perhaps not surprisingly, was natural foods retailer Whole Foods, which was buying from local farmers and ranchers since it opened its first store in 1980 in Austin, Texas. Today each of the company's 270-plus stores in 38 U.S. states prioritizes local sourcing—so much so that its customers take it for granted. Whole Foods' relationships and distribution arrangements with local producers serve as models for the leading national grocery chains, many of which are beginning to source some produce locally when the season is right.

Some are taking more initiative than others. Perhaps most notable is Walmart. Back in 2008 the company committed to sourcing more local fruits and vegetables to keep produce prices down and provide affordable, fresh and healthy choices. Today more than 2,800

Walmart Supercenters and Neighborhood Markets across the country rely on a diverse network of small local growers to provide produce—making Sam Walton's company the nation's largest purchaser of local produce. During summer months, at least one-fifth of the produce available in Walmart stores is grown within the same state as the given store.

The company's Heritage Agriculture program encourages farms within a day's drive of one of its warehouses to grow crops that the company would otherwise have to source from so far away that freshness would be jeopardized and the fuel burned and greenhouse gases emitted in the process would be substantial. While the Heritage program currently accounts for only four to six percent of the company's total domestic produce sales, the company is aiming for 20 percent within the next few years.

Other big grocery chains aren't far behind. Safeway, one of the top three grocery chains in the country, prides themselves on local sourcing, getting nearly a third of its produce nationwide from local/regional growers. In heavy agricultural regions like California, the figure can be as high as 45 percent. The company has also made a big push into organic products, just like its biggest competitor, Walmart.

If the chain grocer near you doesn't do a good job stocking locally sourced food, there are alternatives. Community Supported Agriculture programs, in which consumers "subscribe" to the produce of a given farm by paying monthly dues that entitles them to a box of fresh produce every week, are more popular than ever, as are local farmers' markets, food co-ops and independent natural foods markets. To find local food near you, visit the Local Harvest, which lists organic food sources by zip code and offers a wealth of resources for those looking to learn more about where their food comes from and how it is produced.

Taking the Hunger Challenge

by Assemblywoman Fiona Ma

School is back in session and with it the lunchtime politics of the school yard. Who will trade a sandwich for a cupcake, who gets to sit at the "cool" table, who gets to take the car out for food. However, there is a quieter struggle going on over lunch for the thousands of children in California who depend on school-subsidized lunches, and whose families depend on government food stamps. In San Francisco alone, the number of families who apply for food stamps has gone up 55 percent in the past 17 months. The San Francisco Food Bank estimates that fully one-quarter of children and seniors and one-fifth of adults in the city live with food insecurity. As the Assemblywoman for San Francisco, I am standing up against hunger for families and children.

Sadly, despite the growing number of Americans relying on food stamps in this tough economy, the United States Senate has voted to reduce food stamp spending by \$6.7 billion. American families are facing a crisis of being able to feed their children, and this cut will only make the situation worse. In order to bring awareness of this issue to the fore, I am once again taking up the San Francisco Food Bank's Hunger Challenge. The Challenge is to live on the same food stamp benefits that needy Californians receive—\$4 a day, or \$28 a week, for all my food and drink. This is actually \$1 a day more than last year, when challengers had to survive on only \$3 a day. This is difficult enough to do for a week—imagine having to do it for years.

I encourage anyone who can to take on this challenge as well—simply visit <http://www.hungerchallenge.com> and sign up. The 2010 Hunger Challenge will take place September 12th to 18th.

In local food news, the newest Bay Area Farmer's Market is up and run-

ning at the Cow Palace. The Cow Palace Farmers' Market has over fifty vendors participated in the first day, and the vendors accept EBT cards. This is a great opportunity not only for the vendors and local families, but for Californians who rely on government help for food to have access to fresh, healthy foods including fruits, vegetables, fish, and many other healthy choices. We can beat hunger in San Francisco, and we can do it with local, healthy produce that supports our economy and puts food on local tables.

The Farmers' Market will be available every Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through October 16th.

Closing Pension Loophole Is No Easy Task

A Moraga Orinda Fire District Chief legally spiked his pension by selling back years of accumulated vacation days jumping his final compensation from \$185,000 to a whopping \$241,000.

A Chief of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District increased his annual pension from \$221,000 to \$284,000 by cashing out unused sick leave, administrative leave, and vacation leave.

Cases like these have tarnished the public's trust and have cast a shadow on an important benefit for our state and local public servants.

When pensions were first created, abuse was not anticipated. Certain loopholes have allowed for individuals to abuse a system that is meant to provide some financial security for our nurses, teachers, police officers, and firefighters. Many don't know that more than 99 percent of all public employees make less than \$100,000 per year. Pensions provide an incentive to do the challenging work that does not pay at "private sector salaries." These pensions in most cases are very modest. In fact, the average state employee pension is \$2,100 a month and 78 percent of all retirees earn less than \$36,000 a year. However, abuse has occurred and many cases have involved top level city and government managers.

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I decided that enough was enough. I introduced Assembly Bill 1987 to eliminate abuses. Navigating the mine field of California's pension system has not been an easy task, but after 6 months of hearings and numerous sets of amendments, the final product will enact real reforms.

Were AB 1987 in place before today, the cities of Orinda and Moraga could have saved at least \$1.2 million over the life of one fire chief's pension. AB 1987 is real pension reform. Without AB 1987, pension abuses will continue and no one will be held accountable.

What Does AB 1987 Do?

*Spiking: Under AB 1987, vacation pay is vacation. Employees will no longer be able to accrue years of vacation time, annual leave, personal leave, and/or sick leave and cash it all in at the end. The only thing that will be counted is what is earned and payable in a year.

*Ending Golden Handshakes: Large severance or settlement pay for a retiring employee will no longer be calculated into the pension equation.

*Double-Dipping: Under AB 1987, employees will no longer be able to retire on Friday and be re-hired on Monday. A retiree drawing a pension has to sit out for at least 6 months before he or she can be hired by any other agency covered by the retirement system, even if they're working as an independent contractor. If the retiree wants to be re-hired, he or she has to come out of retirement.

*Pension Oversight: Retirement boards will no longer rubber stamp the compensation amounts between the employer and the employee, and for the first time, oversight will be placed in the hands of the retirement system. All retirement boards will have the power to deny intentional spikes or manipulated pension payments. To ensure that retirement boards are properly reviewing information, AB 1987 requires regular audits and creates penalties for inaccurate or misleading reports.

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For more information or to schedule a tour,
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We Look Forward to Hearing from You



Enjoy your summer...



**...and of course,
call me anytime!**

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415.731.5011 x 163

